



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Czech TAG 2014 – Programme

3 March 2014

19.30 Dinner and informal discussion – Meet at hotel Central (see map), 1st floor restaurant

4 March 2014

9:00-9:10 *Welcome*

9:10-9:30 Kristian Kristiansen: Theorizing complexity: Neolithic versus Bronze Age social formations

9:30-9:50 Ladislav Šmejda: The dead as an artefact

9:50-10:10 Monika Baumanova: Historical archaeologies of urban placemaking

10:10-10:20 Discussion

10:20-10:40 *Coffee break*

10:40-11:00 Karolína Pauknerová: Symmetrical approach in archaeology: epistemology discussion

11:00-11:20 Kornelia Kajda & Mikolaj Kostyrko: Archaeology involved. Local community, non-invasive archaeology and heritage

11:20-11:40 Andrzej Pydyn, Mateusz Popek & Paweł Stencel: Archaeology and Society: different paths of communication

11:40-12:00 Soňa Krásná: Future of Archaeology in European Higher Education Area, the example of the Czech Republic. Bologna process 15 years after, EU etc.

12:00-12:10 Discussion

12:10-13:00 *Lunch*

13:00-13:20 Dalia A. Pokutta: Meet the prince: forms of rulership in the Únětice Culture and the evolution of the 'princely grave' in Poland

13:20-13:40 Daniel Sosna & Lenka Brunclíková: Heterotopias behind the Fence: Spatial Life of Things in Landfills

13:40-14:00 Luboš Chroustovský: Archaeological writing in Central Europe

14:00-14:20 Dominika Kofel - Archaeology of interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity of archaeology. Research on Biskupin type settlements

14:20-15:00 *Discussion and goodbye coffee*



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Abstracts

Theorizing complexity: Neolithic versus Bronze Age social formations

Kristian Kristiansen (University of Gothenburg)

The relationship between centralized and decentralized complexity is discussed. There is a change from centralized to decentralized societies from the Neolithic to the Bronze Age, and an increased capacity to link regional economies together into global economies.

The dead as an artefact

Ladislav Šmejda (University of West Bohemia, Pilsen)

Humans are born as natural organisms having exclusively ecofactual properties. As these organisms grow and become socialized, a purpose is being imposed on their existence (analogically to production of artifacts) and their cognition begins to be formed through the process of enculturation to match the related expectations. Even the human physical appearance must be modified and cultivated to fit the prevailing cultural norms and social roles, so that human body acquires more and more artifactual properties during life. Obviously, we can speak of an artifactual potential that is inherent to human bodies and is realized in ever increasing proportions as people ontogenetically develop. I want to make clear that this is not an effort to dehumanize humans, but to point out an intriguing aspect of human culture. It is important to understand that death maximizes the artifactual potential of the human body and the corpse practically becomes a thing that can be transported, dismembered, modified, reconstructed, used in ritual, used as medicine etc. Thus, life can be seen as a gradual evolution/change of a natural organism into a more and more artifactual 'object' that has a special status because even after death the body is still associated with the social persona of the former living individual, but at the same time it offers certain affordances (latent possibilities of usage), like things. This paper will explore how various cultures focus on various affordances of their dead members and perform funerary procedures of their choice and tradition (individual/collective/selective ways of liminal rituals, form of burial, re-burial, relics veneration etc.).



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Historical archaeologies of urban placemaking

Monika Baumanova (University of West Bohemia, Pilsen)

This study aims to explore the theoretical and methodological approaches archaeology has developed as a field of enquiry into past human use of space in urban settings. Anthropologically informed and theoretically explicit approaches now allow us to move away from classificatory boundaries of urban studies in archaeology. The baggage of culture-historical dimensions of the discipline that limited archaeology to the description of development and classification of various urban forms, has in a sense acquired a new ally in the use of sophisticated methods. These methods seemingly provide us with interpretations as already included in the results. I would like to highlight the dangers inherent in mistaking archaeology for a science, whose aim is simply to accumulate more descriptive information about past urban societies, to classify, qualify and evaluate the goodness of fit of our answers on the basis of current academic standing of the methods and models used.

In recent anthropological studies the case has been argued for contrasting between ethnography and anthropology, when ethnography is focused on the description of the variety of human societies, whilst anthropology should be an art of inquiry aiming to inform us about how people correspond with the world. I would like to extend his argument further and highlight the importance of the link archaeology has with anthropology. In my view, it lies in working with interpretations – those that have social significance, contextual rootedness and that can be used to compare the variety of lifeways and worldviews humans have taken on throughout their extensive experience with social life on this planet, particularly in urban settings.

Symmetrical approach in archaeology: epistemology discussion

Karolína Pauknerová (Charles University in Prague)

Archaeology as a discipline that deals predominantly with residues of material culture, or simply put with objects, seemed innocent for many years. The situation has changed since 1990s when social science started to turn its attention to discussion of actors (of science). This turn could be either traced as “agentic turn” or “practice turn”, otherwise called posthumanism and could be defined as



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

anti-Cartesian, and anti-dualistic. Similar stances as in these turns could be also found in perspectivism.

Following this trend, I will widen this social science discussion a little bit further and try to discuss the actors of an archaeological research as equal, as mutually forming one another with hybrid nature-culture character and own agency. To identify and deepen the knowledge of the actors of an archaeological research we can use the approach of ethnography.

Actors reveal in a “web” in which they express their agency, such actors are e.g. material objects – archaeological finds, archaeologists and other specialists, general public, knowledge objects, way or the technique of excavating, used tools... The nature of such web is sophisticated as actors themselves are formed from other webs of agency. In the paper I will focus on the agency of individual actors in an archaeological research, its varied manifestations and the expression of power.

Archaeology involved. Local community, non-invasive archaeology and heritage

Kornelia Kajda & Mikolaj Kostyrko (Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan)

Recently archaeologists have started to appreciate the interest in their findings that occurs in the society. Many researchers promote concepts of popular archaeology and community archaeology to open this field of knowledge to wider society. However, having knowledge of the importance of involving the public in the research, archaeologists still often do not want to cooperate with the communities or they do not know how they should engage the local people in their work. Furthermore, they also do not know how they can transmit the working knowledge about heritage.

In our presentation we would like to join the group of archaeologists who involve local communities in their projects and make them part of their research group. We would like to tell about the European project “Archaeology involved: society – past – remote sensing” (2013) which concerns the issues such as: the ways of cooperation with local communities, teaching about the importance of local heritage and showing archaeology as a field of knowledge that does not have to be connected with expensive excavations. In our presentation we would like to show that cooperation with the public is



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

a very significant part of archaeological research and that it can bring the advantage to both archaeologists and local communities.

Archaeology and Society: different paths of communication

Andrzej Pydyn, Mateusz Popek & Paweł Stencel (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun)

Communication between society and science is always a difficult matter. Every scientist should work for the good of society and therefore he should communicate with it. Many times we focus on our work and ignore that matter. The problem lays also in the society itself. In many cases people are simply not interested in scientific achievements. For archaeology, problem of communication with society is notably important. We are obligated to explain the meaning of archeological heritage to the society because we can protect it only with their support. For the typical receiver archaeology is relatively interesting part of science. Unfortunately that does not mean he or she understands that science correctly. That is why we have to always search for new ways to communicate with the society in interesting and professional manner.

Future of Archaeology in European Higher Education Area, the example of the Czech Republic. Bologna process 15 years after, EU etc.

Soňa Krásná (Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Prague)

The implementation of Bologna Accords in European Higher Education Area, using the example of the Czech Republic, brought significant changes to the system of education, which had whole complex of consequences and further after effects, among others:

- Rapid increase of number of universities, where archaeology is accredited in all levels, including post-gradual study programmes.
- Increase of number of graduates having various levels of education being involved in archaeology only in part.

This has affected indispensably the employment market and the quality and self-asserting ambitions of the graduates. On the other hand has occurred relevant evidence in the field of university



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

employees involved in education process as well as those in the research. Is there will to look for common ground for improvement or is the way it is going on convenient for those who are involved?

How was affected the international cooperation and linking-up in research and the “science in science”? How long does it take to see the effects of education process in common archaeological practice and academic life?

Heterotopias behind the Fence: Spatial Life of Things in Landfills

Daniel Sosna & Lenka Brunclíková (University of West Bohemia, Pilsen)

Landfills represent both matter out of place and out of concern. The desolate surface, flying plastic bags, and omnipresent odour evoke images of futility. It results in placement of landfills in locations hidden from the view of persons passing by and only those who gone astray might encounter these blind spots on the map. Yet landfills embody a fascinating spatio-temporal phenomenon. Drawing on Michel Foucault’s concept of heterotopia, we present landfill as a form of space, which is linked to and reflects simultaneously plethora of other spaces. It consists of highly diverse things that often experience complex ‘spatial life’ before they become unwanted and end up in the landfill. The empirical basis for this theoretical quest comes from the garbological research conducted in 2012 and 2013. We collected and analysed household waste from three different areas in West Bohemia (Czech Republic) to increase the reliability of our analyses. In this paper we build upon our previous experience but approach garbage in the landfill from a new direction. We trace spatial links of garbage items to develop a model of a landfill as a highly heterogeneous entity that collapses multitude of spaces into a single spot. The comparison with other kinds of heterotopias such as cemeteries and prisons enables us to identify the special quality of landfills because of their extremely diverse content. Finally, we explore the utility of the concept of heterotopia from the temporal perspective to shed light on its potential in archaeology.



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Meet the prince: forms of rulership in the Únětice Culture and the evolution of the 'princely grave' in Poland

Dalia A. Pokutta (University of Gotheburg)

This paper presents the results of the bioarchaeological analyses of human remains retrieved from several Early Bronze Age barrows located Silesia, southwestern Poland, associated with the Únětice Culture. Prehistoric rulership in any form and time can be defined as a way in which people change the minds of others and move given population forward to accomplish identified goals. A common way for elites to legitimize their status is through ritual, and monumental tombs, the so-called *princely graves* of the Early Bronze Age Únětice culture can be seen therefore as elements of common and formalized pattern of ceremonial activities, a social practice that served to unite a community being a vital part of group identity. Monumental tombs might be the one thing, however question arise who was really buried in the barrows?

Archaeological writing in Central Europe

Luboš Chroustovský (University of West Bohemia, Pilsen)

This paper presents the research of archaeological writing in central Europe since the beginning of the 20th century undertaken within the project 'Strategy of archaeological research in Europe'. The aim of this research lies in systematic description of published texts in order to reveal main topics and their associations with researchers, theoretical and methodological aspects and the way references are chosen and cited. Various kinds of archaeological texts (e.g. books, journal articles, proceedings papers) have been systematically analysed by means of a simple database. A new analytical section was added to the bibliographic database applied at the Department of Archaeology since 2003 and designed for references collection. The structure and design of the new database was discussed with doctoral students who participated in data collection. Several aspects of archaeological texts have been studied – theoretical background (paradigms, models and hypotheses), methods (analysis, synthesis, and interpretation), empirical basis (various kinds of archaeological record), documentation (e.g. images, maps, tables, graphs) and references. The



INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

results obtained during the initial phase focused mainly on Czech and Moravian publications are presented here.

Archaeology of interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity of archaeology. Research on Biskupin type settlements

Dominika Kofel (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)

The subject of interdisciplinary studies in archaeology is very popular. We seek support in ethnography, biology, chemistry and other sciences. It gives a lot of answers to our questions however it is also connected with fetching lots of data that may be misleading in direct archaeological interpretations.

Another well-known nowadays aspect in archaeology is non-destructive approach to the conducted research. We do not dig anymore but we use other techniques to check what is hidden underground. These methods do not destroy the layers and are less expensive therefore are more often supported by officials.

These two, interdisciplinary and non-destructive researches brings to a light a question: how much archaeology is still there in aforementioned studies? Is it limited only to a site (space) that the investigation is undertaken? Is it still archaeology or the human aspect is simply being omitted?

The case study of the presentation is fortified settlements of the Biskupin type located in the central west Poland. These sites were elaborately researched in the middle of last century. Some of them such as Biskupin and Sobiejuchy have been studied and published in detail other are still waiting to get their own monograph. The sites were investigated using interdisciplinary and destructive methods (regular excavations were conducted there). Now the time to undertake non-destructive investigations has come.

The analysis will try to find a golden mean between destructive and non-destructive methods as well as archaeology of interdisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity of archaeology.

INVESTMENTS IN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

Plzeň: map of the city centre



Conference venue: Sedláčkova st. 15 (FF ZČU), Room 319

The nearest hotel: Central - <http://www.central-hotel.cz/en/home-page/>